PROPOSED

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A document editing apparatus for displaying on a screen a document comprising a content described in plural permeable layers by displaying the layers one on another on the screen, the apparatus comprising:

document synthesis means for displaying a layer that has been set to be displayed on a screen based on display/non-display setting included in data of each layer;

document editing means for generating a new layer *based on a user entry of comments among multiple user entries* and adding thereof to the document comprising layers displayed on the screen and for generating, when the new layer is added, information of the layers displayed on the screen as at-add-time layer display state information;

layer state managing means for managing the at-add-time layer display state information in correlation with the new added layer;

display designation receiving means for receiving a display designation for specifying an arbitrary layer from a user; and

layer state reproducing means for controlling the document synthesis means to display the layer that was displayed on the screen when the specified layer was added based on the at-add-time layer display state information in response to reception of the layer

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specification from the display designation receiving means, *wherein the state of the document when the specified layer is added is reproduced.*

2. The document editing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the document editing apparatus comprises a client apparatus and a server apparatus connected to each other by way of a communication line, and wherein

the client apparatus comprises the document synthesis means, the document editing means, the display designation receiving means, and ~~and~~ layer state reproducing means, and

the server apparatus comprises the layer state managing means and document managing means for managing data of each layer.

3. The document editing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the client apparatus further comprises layer state temporarily storing means for temporarily storing at-add-time layer display state information of each of plural layers added by the document editing means, transmitting the temporarily stored at-add-time layer display *state* information to the layer state managing means when the added plural layer data pieces are transmitted to the document managing means and reflected on the document, and controlling the layer state managing means to manage it.

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